

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 04274 092108Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----127964 092110Z /70
O 091518Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 083

S E C R E T BUDAPEST 4274

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: SCUL HU US
SUBJECT: CROWN OF ST STEPHEN

REF: (A) STATE 289262 (B) BUDAPEST 4265

1. THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED THREE CHANGES IN THE
TEXT OF THE DRAFT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS TRANSMITTED VIA REFTEL
(A).

A. SUBPARA 3 - CHANGE TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "THE CROWN AND
OTHER REGALIA, AS PROPERTY OF THE HUNGARIAN NATION AND PEOPLE,
WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE HEAD OR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE HUNGARIAN STATE. WE UNDER STAND THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL AND
GOVERNMENT, LEADERS OF THE HUNGARIAN CHURCHES -- INCLUDING
THE HUNGARIAN CARDINAL-PRIMATE AND LEADERS OF HUNGARIAN
PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS AND OF THE NATIONAL REPRESENTATION
OF HUNGARIAN JEWS -- AS WETL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
HUNGARIAN TRADE UNIONS, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, YOUTH ORGANI-
ZATIONS AND OUTSTANDING PERSONALITIES OF SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL LIFE WILL BE AMONG THOSE INVITED TO PARTICI-
PATE IN THE CEREMONY."

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COMMENT: THE EFFECT OF THIS CHANGE IS TO BROADEN
THE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE NATURE OF THE RETURN CEREMONY.
IT ALSO SATISFIES HUNGARIAN PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS IN
THE ORDER OF LISTING THE COMPOSITION OF THE HUNGARIAN
DELEGATION.

B. SUBPARA 6 - CHANGE TO READ: "THE HUNGARIAN

AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS WILL, UPON RECEIPT OF THE CROWN AND OTHER REGALIA, EXCHANGE A NOTE OR LETTER ACKNOWLEDGING THE SAFE RECEIPT OF THESE OBJECTS AND WAIVING ANY CLAIMS BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS AGAINST THE OTHER GOVERNMENT ARISING FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SAFEKEEPING OF THEM."

COMMENT: IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY THAT A FUTURE U.S. ADMINISTRATION MIGHT MAKE A CLAIM FOR THE COST OF SAFEGUARDING THE CROWN. IT IS A LEGAL PRECAUTION WORTHY OF A PHILADELPHIA LAWYER.

C. SUBPARA 8 - CHANGE TO READ: "THE CROWN AND OTHER CORONATION REGALIA WILL BE PLACED ON PERMANENT PUBLIC DISPLAY IN AN APPROPRIATE HISTORICAL LOCATION IN BUDAPEST FOR THE POPULATION OF THE COUNTRY, HUNGARIANS ABROAD AND FOREIGNERS ALIKE TO SEE."

COMMENT: THE EFFECT OF THIS CHANGE IS TO MAKE THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSISTENT WITH THE DRAFT JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THE GOH IS RELUCTANT TO COMMIT ITSELF TO THE PHRASE, "NO RESTRICTIONS," SINCE INEVITABLY THERE WILL BE SOME RESTRICTIONS SUCH AS THE OPENING HOURS OF THE MUSEUM IN WHICH THE CROWN WILL BE DISPLAYED. THE SUBSTANTIVE THRUST OF THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE, WHICH ORIGINALLY IS AMERICAN LANGUAGE TO BE
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USED IN THE COMMUNIQUE, IS THE SAME AS OUR DRAFT LANGUAGE.

2. IN PASSING THE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS TO THE DCM DEC 9, BARTHA EMPHASIZED THAT THEY ARE MORE TECHNICAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE DRAFT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS, AS WELL AS THE COMMUNIQUE, WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE POLITBURO ON TUESDAY, DEC 13. HE EMPHASIZED THE DESIRABILITY OF OUR RESPONDING TO THESE PROPOSED CHANGES BEFORE THEN SO THAT THE POLITBURO CAN APPROVE THE TWO DOCUMENTS.

3. BARTHA REMARKED THAT IF WE ARE ABLE TO NAME THE CHIEF OF OUR DELEGATION BEFORE NEXT TUESDAY THE POLITBURO COULD ALSO APPROVE THE CHIEF OF THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION. THIS AGAIN WOULD FACILITATE TO A CONSIDERABLE VERY GREAT DEGREE THE PROTOCOL AND BUREAUCRATIC ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY TO MAKE AT THIS END.

4. I HAVE REVIEWED CAREFULLY THE SUGGESTED HUNGARIAN CHANGES. I BELIEVE THEIR FIRST SUGGESTION IS ACTUALLY

AN IMPROVEMENT ON OUR OWN DRAFT. THEIR SECOND SUGGESTION IS UNDERSTANDABLE AND WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE MEANING FOR US. THEIR THIRD SUGGESTION IS REASONABLE AND ONE TO WHICH I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD OBJECT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEIR SUGGESTED LANGUAGE IS ORIGINALLY OUR LANGUAGE. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT WE ACCEPT ALL THREE CHANGES AND HOPE THE DEPARTMENT CAN DO SO IN TIME FMR ME TO COMMUNICATE OUR ACCEPTANCE TO THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT BY COB MONDAY.

5. WHEN BARTHA PASSED THESE CHANGES TO US HE NOTED THAT THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE STATEMENT ABOUT INCLUDING AMERICANS OF HUNGARIAN DESCENT IN THE U.S. DELEGATION. HE ADDED THAT HE PERSONALLY HOPES THESE
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INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO ARE PROMINENT FOR SOME CONTRIBUTIONS THEY HAVE MADE IN SUCH FIELDS AS SCIENCE OR CULTURE. HE CAREFULLY SAID THAT THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT REQUESTING THAT HUNGARIAN-AMERICANS WHOSE ONLY DISTINCTION IS THAT THEY WERE FORMERLY PROMINENT POLITICAL OFFICIALS BE EXCLUDED FROM THE DELEGATION. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY ARE HOPING WE WILL ACT WITH DISCRETION ON THIS POINT.
KAISER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, AGREEMENT DRAFT, AGREEMENTS, CULTURAL PROPERTY, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUDAPE04274
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850050-2264
Format: TEL
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771275/aaaacici.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b6a72308-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 STATE 289262, 77 BUDAPEST 4265
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 299022
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN
TAGS: SCUL, HU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b6a72308-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009